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# THE CANADIAN RAILROADER



TARIFF BOARD ANSWER TO THE  
GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE  
A LOOK AT INTERESTING PHASES  
OF FRENCH UNIONISM

OFFICIAL ORGAN,  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
MEETING ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, August 14th, 1920

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# Our London Letter

## Ireland and Poland Occupying Attention of British Labor.

(From our Own Correspondent)

London, July 24th.

INTERNATIONAL and home affairs alike are keeping British Labor busy. Ireland and Poland continue to be the outstanding questions outside the purely domestic. The trade unions have been recommended by a trade union congress, providing the Government does not remove the troops from Ireland and cease assisting Poland against Russia, to ascertain the views of their members as to a down tools policy. It is one of the curiosities of the movement here that it is always impossible to obtain unanimity on matters like these, and, personally, I am not anticipating a general strike. The general effect, however, will be to bring pressure to bear on the Government and bring peace nearer in each direction.

At home the big industrial question is whether the engineers can come to an understanding with the employers on the matters of payment by results and the 47-hour week. The men have voted against the payment by results, but I have reason for saying that they would be prepared to sacrifice the principle if they could be assured that the industry would see to it that there is to be no more unemployment within its borders.

It may be that, when the question of consolidation of wages and the very important question of elimination of unemployment are discussed, the question of payment by results may arise in another form. There is a feeling of general hopefulness among the rank and file, as reported by organizing delegates over the whole country, but it is reported no less clearly that there is a strong determination not to allow a long time to elapse without action being taken to adjust the present anomalous situation.

There has been, in fact, a threat of strike among boilermakers in the Teeside area, but this has blown over.

Representatives of the Miners' Federation are to meet Sir Robert Horne, president of the Board of

Trade, on Monday, in regard to their demand that the \$3.50 increase in the price of household coal should be taken off and that the wages of adult miners should be increased by 50c. per shift and those of youths and boys by 25c. and 18c. per shift respectively.

Already rumors are being circulated in the House of Commons and the Press that the Government is going to resist the miners' claims.

"I cannot," says Frank Hodges, secretary of the Federation, "bring myself to believe that this rumor is based on any actual Cabinet decision. The Government would hardly dare to decide that the community should be deprived of a legitimate fall in the price of coal to the extent of 50 millions sterling per annum when it can be so clearly shown that the reduction can be made without any injury to the industry."

"Nor could any Government be so utterly stupid," Hodges went on, "as to reject the claim for an advance in wages before the claim is heard, especially when it can be demonstrated that the industry could pay this advance as well as bear the reduction in the price of coal without reducing the owners' profits by a single penny."

"In spite of what is being said the whole community will assist the miners in one of the most unselfish trade union movements of modern times. Our fellow-workers do not want the miners to fall behind in the race with the cost of living, and the miners do not want the community to be deprived of the advantage that should accrue from the abnormal price of export coal."

"This is not the first time we have tried to secure a reduction in the price of coal, but the present endeavor exceeds anything we have hitherto attempted in the public interest. Happily, the working classes believe in our sincerity and the Government knows that we are in deadly earnest."

The long-standing wages dispute between the members of one of the Outer London Fire Brigades and the Hornsey Corporation threatened to



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develop into a lightning strike this week, and drastic action by the firemen has been postponed only through the moderating influence of the men's trade union officials.

The trouble arose through the failure of the local Council to put into operation the recommendations of the official committee which advised that firemen should be put on the same footing as policeman—starting at \$17.50 per week, for an eight-hour day, and rising by 50c. per week per year to \$23.75. All the Councils around Hornsey granted the increases, and the Hornsey men last month asked the Council to do so before going into recess. The Council's answer was to offer increases which would bring the men's wages up to 150 per cent. above the pre-war level.

The men at once resolved to withdraw from duty, but on the advice of J. W. Bradley, secretary of the Firemen's Trade Union, agreed to defer action until the union's execu-

tive committee has discussed the position.

Bradley says: "The situation is serious, especially as the Borough Council has gone into recess. It was with the greatest difficulty that I got the firemen to stay at their posts."

Strong demands for reduction of the cost of living will be considered by the Trade Union Congress at Portsmouth in September.

A motion by the Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association proposes that all unions should combine as one unit in demanding a substantial reduction, and that, failing immediate action by the authorities, an alternative demand be put forward for a 50 per cent. increase on present earnings.

The Central Ironmoulders Association proposes a ballot on the question of downing tools unless the Government takes steps to reduce the cost of foodstuffs immediately by 50 per cent.

For the same Congress the Agricultural Workers have tabled the following resolutions:

"That this Congress, while recognizing that the land problem cannot be effectively dealt with outside national ownership and control, nevertheless believes that immediate steps should be taken to secure the compulsory cultivation of all agricultural land."

"That this Congress calls upon the Government to at once deal with the system of 'tied cottages' so that no workman shall be evicted or dispossessed of such a dwelling house of which his employer is the landlord upon his ceasing to be employed by such employer without legal proceedings being taken before a Court of competent jurisdiction."

"That this Congress hereby resolves to give support to the demand of the agricultural workers to be included within the scope of the Hours of Employment Bill, and further, protests against the delay on the part of the Government in giving effect to their pledge in connection with this matter."

It was made plain at the national conference, just closed, of the National Laundry Workers' Union, that unless the recent award affecting male members is amended there is likely to be widespread trouble.

The conference agreed that a deputation should wait on the Minister of Labor to point out the unsatisfactory nature of the award, both as to terms and grading, and the exclusion of certain classes of male labor.

It was further decided "that, failing arrangements to rectify the mistakes made and the immediate reconstruction of the Board, action must be taken directly in all union shops."

Ethelbert Pogson.

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## Answer To Grain Growers' Guide

(GEORGE PIERCE)

**A**N editorial which appeared in the Grain Growers' Guide in issue of July 28th, 1920, entitled "Permanent Tariff Board" is so interesting that it is republished in full in this issue.

According to the Guide, I am generously afflicted with imaginary figments. The writer of the editorial declares that a number of editorials have appeared in the Guide during the last seven or eight years, which is quite true, but what editorials have appeared dealing with a permanent Tariff Board during this period? The subject of the article is a permanent Board, not an investigating temporary Board. Since the question of the appointment of a permanent Board has only been in agitation for one year, I cannot help but admire the foresight of the Guide in discussing it seven years previous to the time when it was first introduced to the Canadian public. The Guide is certainly a progressive organ endowed with the genius of prognostication. To be able to peer into the future with such accuracy bespeaks an uncanny knowledge of mankind and its vagaries. I humbly offer my congratulations.

As to the union resolutions of which the Guide is suspicious, their history should be of great interest to the farmers. Therefore, Know All Farmers By These Presents, that there is a little town in Quebec, designated as St. Johns, where once flourished the pottery industry. During those prosperous days, the workmen were banded into a solid trade union. A Mr. Smith, an old country potter, was the acknowledged leader of the men. Then came the Laurier election with its free trade mandate. To satisfy free trade electors, certain industries were "free traded" with a vengeance. Among these was the pottery industry. Then came the flood. Pottery, more pottery and still more pottery was dumped in from every foreign port. When the industries of St. Johns had crumbled to the dust, the flood of cheap pottery suddenly ceased. Pottery became extremely expensive. We are paying more to-day for articles of this manufacture than any other nation which can boast of first-class trade transportation.

Now this Mr. Smith, who witnessed the rise and decline of the industry in which his fellow workmen perished industrially, went to the conventions of the Trades Congress year after year in an effort to secure support from the Government through Trades Congress influence which would rebuild the industry and enable his fellow workmen to ply the craft in which they had been taught from boyhood. In the hurry and the lack of understanding of delegates to the conventions, his efforts never received proper attention. Finally, he went before his own organization and advocated a resolution supporting a permanent Tariff Board of the exact kind which has been successful in the United States where the farmers were its chief supporters. So he communicated by mail with each of the organizations, which in turn debated the question, signed and sealed the resolutions and returned them to Mr. Smith's union at St. Johns. And this, by the way, is a method frequently used by Trades Unions to gain concerted action from all other Trades Unions on any proposition affecting the lives of the workers. If the Guide wants to know what particular influence guided them to an acceptance of these resolutions, I take the greatest pleasure in answering in two words — Common sense. If the pottery workers had not been brought near to ruin by free trade, they would not have campaigned so vigorously for a Tariff Board.

The allegation that the Board would "lay down for the Government in power the details of tariff policy and that the Cabinet would not determine the policy but that the Board would, and that it is a delegation of authority to institute a permanent Tariff Board" is absolutely and irrevocably refuted by the operations of the American Tariff Board against which charges of this nature after years of operation have never been made by partisans of either the democratic or republican parties. The theories of the Guide are entirely disproven by the facts of American practice. This language is quite precise, and I therefore exempt the Guide from charitably attributing my bad logic to a misunderstanding of the meaning of words.

The last paragraph of the editorial stating that no scientific trained economist believes in framing a scientific tariff, that a scientific tariff is an absurdity, a protectionist hallucination, that the tariff is a matter of policy, not of science, that science cannot be applied to it, that all this finds no basis in economic science and that, therefore, there is no reason for tariff reformers to attach any value to such a Board, are all refuted by facts. It was the economists of the United States, the trained, scientific thinkers who devised the American Tariff Board. It is the scientific economists of Canada who are giving greatest attention to the appointment of a Canadian Board. The heads of the American Board are all acknowledged scientists. They have made a glossary of the tariff; they have, as President Taft once stated "translated the tariff into plain English." They have secured invaluable information from all parts of the world and placed it at the disposition of American manufacturers after a scientific economic interpretation of the facts so that the vast data gathered could be instantly used. I am informed by the best of Canadian economists that this is scientific work of the first magnitude.

And now as to the day-dreams, the figments of imagination of which the Guide croons so softly, it appears that I am not alone in the land of dreams in and out of the chasing shadows. A million and a half American farmers dream the same dreams with me. In their disturbed slumbers, "In season and out of season," they dreamed and demanded a permanent scientific Tariff Board. All the world is asleep — basking in popped slumbers, dreaming of a tariff, a scientific advisory Tariff Board. Did I say all the world was snoring? No, the Guide is awake, fully awake, in witness whereof the hundred million Rip Van Winkles of the States will awaken to find that science is a myth and that the Grain Growers' Guide and the western farmers have garnered in all the learning and science, all the knowledge and wisdom, while the rest of us shiver in ignorance. In the meanwhile, we are still waiting to hear the Guide's explanation concerning the peculiar fact that a million and a half farmers in the United States supported a permanent advisory scientific Tariff Board, while the Canadian farmer opposes it.

The point is, who is awake and who is not, who is dreaming and who is not, who is right and who is wrong? If the Canadian farmers are right, then the American farmers were wrong, and if the American farmers were right, then the Canadian farmers are wrong, and if so many farmers can be wrong, then after all, it is quite possible for some of us industrialists to be right.

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## French Playrights, Clothing Workers and Telegraph Operators

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, July 22.

AN interesting situation exists at the present moment in Paris regarding the rights of members of the Society of Dramatic Authors to join a newly organized Dramatic Authors' Union. The Society and the Union are at loggerheads, it appears, and there will probably be many months of dispute and possibly litigation before the matter can be settled.

Parisian writers, dramatic or otherwise, are great believers in the powers of association. The journalists have their union. The majority of the great host of French free lances belong to the Writers' Association whose members have no difficulty in collecting claims for articles or stories, as the Association automatically collects all dues for them. Musical composers are assured that their royalties will be duly collected if they are members of the Society of Composers of Music.

In the theatrical world the Society of Dramatic Authors has hitherto wielded absolute power. Indeed it practically controls the French stage, and a French dramatist has little hope of having one of his efforts staged unless he be a member. Like the other writers' organizations the Society of Dramatic Authors undertakes the collection of the playwright's share of the receipts.

The difficulty has risen over the newly formed Dramatic Authors' Union. The Union was formed by a small body of members of the Society who were interested in the federation of theatrical unions and who wished thus to ally themselves with the federation. The activities of the Dramatic Authors' Union have met with the disapproval of the Society of Dramatic Authors, which has now decided that none of its members may belong to the other body. Union and Society are therefore at daggers drawn. The unionists deny the right of the society to impose such a rule, and protest that it infringes the French law of 1884 on the right of professional association. The actors and stage workers have had their part in the discussion, for their unions, being included in the federation of theatrical unions, having declared that unless the Society yields, the actors will refuse to perform plays written by the authors who are opposing the Dramatic Authors' Union. The squabble continues merrily, but some decision must necessarily be reached before the autumn theatrical season begins.

The power of the Actors' Union was shown the other day by its victory over M. de Courville, a successful London manager who is staging the revue, "Pif Paf", in Paris on English lines. He had engaged three

of the artists on a month's contract and had refused to re-engage them when the time expired. M. de Courville had, however, signed a contract with the Actors' Union that artists must be engaged by the season or for the run of the revue. The matter was brought to the attention of the federation of stage unions and at five o'clock one evening a strike was decided upon, to go into effect at once unless the management yielded. There was naturally not a little excitement behind the scenes at the Theatre Marigny, and for some hours it was doubtful whether the curtain would go up that night upon "Pif Paf!" Eventually it was agreed that the three artists should appear, and the curtain rose only ten minutes after the usual hour.

\* \* \*

Having heard rumors of an international conference of clothing workers, I dropped into the office of M. Manches in the Bourse de Travail to ask if Paris was to be seat of the conference. M. Manches is the assistant secretary of the Federation d'Industrie des Travailleurs de l'Habillement de France et des Colonies, the imposing name by which the French clothing workers' union is known. I found him busy with correspondence regarding the conference.

"It will be held in Copenhagen," he explained, "and it will be a small conference rather than a large convention. Its object is to reconstruct a world federation of clothing workers, to bring again into being the International Clothing Workers' Union that had been formed in Berlin just before the war by representatives of the clothing industry in every nation. The International union lapsed in war time."

Pierre Dumas, well known in French labor circles, will represent France at the conference, I learned, and M. Manches will also be there. Not the least interesting fact about the gathering will be the part taken by representatives from the newly formed states of eastern Europe. M. Manches explained that the industry was well organized in Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Jugo-Slavia and Finland and that one or two representatives from each of those countries will be present. There will only be twenty labor leaders in all at the meeting, the feeling of the leaders of the industry being that a small number could more readily handle the task of revising the former constitution and electing an international executive than could a large convention.

"Will there be a delegate from the Canadian clothing workers?" I asked M. Manches.

He replied in the negative. "The

Canadian workers are organized under the international union which has its headquarters in the United States", he explained. "The two American delegates, representing the Journeymen Tailors' Union and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, will have the interest of the Canadian clothing workers to protect."

Asked about the seat of the International Clothing Workers' Union, M. Manches said that it would probably be permanently at Amsterdam. "It is necessary to select not only a conveniently situated city," he said, "but it must be in a country that has an avowed neutral policy."

One of the results of the re-establishment of the international union would likely be, he said, the publication of an official organ at regular intervals with sections in each of the three leading languages, English, French and German.

\* \* \*

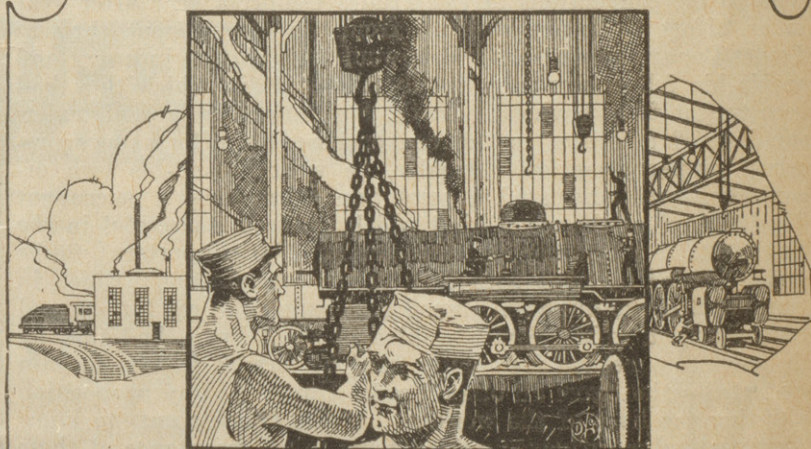
The union of telephone and telegraph operators is one of the younger unions of France, where labor organization is in an advanced stage of development. The slowness of the telephone operators in organizing is probably due to the imperfect development of France's telephone system, which is about twenty-five years behind that of Canada. Nevertheless the operators appear to have outdone Canada's operators in respect to organization. As a matter of fact their situation is entirely

different. The telephone and telegraph systems of France are owned and operated by the French Government in close conjunction with the post office system. Incidentally it may be said that the three services are equally bad and of a kind not to be tolerated for a moment in an English-speaking country. The telegraph and telephone operators are then civil servants. The employees of the post office, telegraphs and telephones are naturally organized under one federation, which is popularly known as the Syndical P. T. T. Electrical workers and postmen employed in this service have been organized for many years, but only in 1918 did the telephone and telegraph operators find their place in the Syndical P. T. T. This newest branch of the Syndical numbers 27,000 members, which means the majority of the telephone and telegraph operators in France. Already they have been able to secure notable increases in wages, and the amelioration of working conditions through their organization.

Ethel Longworth.

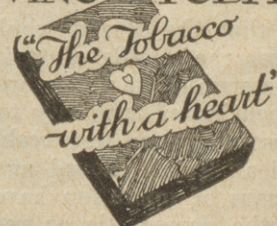
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## The Union View On Soldier Labor

**Opposition Is Not to Former Soldier  
But to Fact That He Is Unskilled  
or Semi-Skilled — All Unions  
Not to Blame.**

(The following is interesting in view  
of the recent discussion of the  
subject in these columns.)

(Special correspondence of the  
Christian Science Monitor, Boston).

London, England. — Earl Haig continues his campaign against the trade unions, whom he accuses of acting cruelly toward former service men who are "fighting the greatest battle of their lives in trying to find work," while Fred Bramley, assistant secretary of the parliamentary committee of the Trade Union congress, has replied in vigorous and characteristic style in the defence of the unions.

The difference in the methods of both men is very pronounced, Earl Haig slashing out right and left in wide generalization, while his opponent calls for particulars and figures, himself supplying a wealth of detail concerning any industry which the gallant Earl had thought fit to name. Without in any way showing "sides," there is not the slightest doubt that Mr. Bramley is the

greater master of his subject, due no doubt to the fact that he has been present at many of the conferences between the unions and the various government departments when the problem of the former service man and his absorption into industry has been discussed.

On the face of it there is most certainly much to be said for the point of view so emphatically expressed by Earl Haig; there is more than an element of truth in the assertion that a number of trade unions have absolutely refused to cooperate in the training of those who fought for their country on the battle fields of Flanders and elsewhere. But as the writer pointed out in a previous article, the opposition is not to the former soldier as such but to the fact that he is an unskilled or semi-skilled man. Where the former service man is also a skilled mechanic, who has trained and who followed his trade before the war, he of course simply returns to it in the ordinary way.

In fact many trade unions allowed their young members to retain their full union privileges, uninterrupted, notwithstanding the circumstance that during the years they were "with the colors" they were relieved of all financial obligations. There is some justification for the belief that the Field Marshal has failed to grasp these two points. He learns of a specific grievance — or a number of them — where

soldiers are not allowed free and unfettered access into an industry, and forthwith proceeds to denounce the entire trade union movement.

### ON MONEY-MAKING

Mr. J. W. O'Bannon, a New York millionaire, who was recently declared to be incompetent, during the 52 days he was confined to the Riverdale sanitarium made \$2,000,000. Dr. John D. Quakenbos, an eminent specialist in nervous diseases, commenting on the case, said in part, as follows:

Money making in itself does not imply or require the possession of gigantic intellect. It is as specialized a faculty as the ability to play the violin or to play chess. We read of infant prodigies who are musical wonders or marvels at chess, but they seldom at maturity show a normal, well-rounded intellect.

"More than one rich man, I have no hesitation in saying, is much inferior intellectually to his chauffeur.

"Many a man has made money in Wall Street simply as the result of blind luck. I have yet to see that the acquisition of wealth requires the use of extraordinary intelligence."

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# Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent)

THE event of the past week at Ottawa has been the Imperial Press Conference. Its sessions concluded on Saturday night and the delegates are now speeding on their westward journey. They travel in two trains, one furnished by the C. P. R. and the other by the Canadian National System. The first contains the mighty mandarins and potentates of the party and has been christened "The Silvertails Express". The second, being composed of steel cars and occupied by the humbler members of the party, is dubbed the "Tin Kitty". There was an idea abroad that the latter carried the happier family. The visiting delegates numbered about 100 and were re-inforced by about 20 Canadian representatives. Their deliberations lasted three full days varied with bouts of oratory from local notabilities of the political world. On the opening day, Messrs. Meighen and Mackenzie King marched on to the platform with the Governor-General and as they sat there they irresistibly reminded one of two schoolboys up for an elocution contest in a country school. Both their speeches were commendably brief.

The visitors are a very variegated lot ranging from millionaire newspaper owners like Lord Burnham to comparatively obscure journalists though the latter type were none too plentiful. Lord Burnham, who was elected chairman of the Conference, is quite unable to conceal his Hebraic origin; it leaks out both in his countenance and his speech. The original name of the family was Levy but when wealth and honors came their way they changed it to the good old English patronymic of Lawson. One of the prime movers in the Conference, and, doubtless, is his own estimation, its leading spirit, is Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., who has consecrated his life for

many years to the task of binding the poor old British Empire together. Sir Harry is what is designated in certain vulgar circles as a "glad-hand artist".

It was unfortunate that none of the men whose pens really make public opinion in Britain, like J. L. Garvin, A. G. Gardiner, H. W. Massingham, J. A. Spender and Ian Colvin, were present.

Most of the resolutions which were passed consisted of recommendations regarding the newspaper business and its relations to the public rather than to political matters. Many of them were very colorless and were merely expressions of pious aspirations.

The first subject on the agenda on the conference was cable rates. Mr. Robert Donald, Vice-Chairman of the British delegation, moved a resolution recommending the Governments of Great Britain and the Dominions to increase cable communication and to reduce the rates for news messages whereby the fullest interchange of news and opinions within the Empire could be assured. It also urged the various governments to make increased grants to cable companies which would enable them to reduce tolls and advocated the construction of new state-owned cables. Mr. Donald said that a uniform postal rate should be followed by a uniform cable rate and he had the aspiration that the latter might soon be fixed at two cents per word.

Sir R. Jones, the Chairman and Managing Director of Reuter's News Service, stated that both government and commercial traffic had increased and no lessening of cable pressure need be looked for. He could see, therefore, no prospect of the penny a word rate for the moment. He opposed the idea of subsidies on the ground that it would expose cable and news service to the charge of being under government influence. Mr. Fairfax of Australia moved an alternative resolution asking that the Empire Press Union should use its influence to secure better, quicker and cheaper facilities by governmental assistance. Mr. Denison of the Sydney Sun and Mr. Percy Hurd, an English M.P., urged that the cables be relieved of superfluous government messages. Eventually the original resolution was adopted. There was some discussion concerning the possibilities of wireless telegraphy and telephony and a representative of the Marconi Co. addressed the gathering. The general conclusion was that wireless would inevitably be supplementary to rather than a substitute for cables.

On Thursday evening the government of Canada entertained the Conference and a number of prominent

Ottawans to a state dinner at which a series of speeches were delivered. The keynote of the addresses was the oneness of the sentiment of the British Empire which Lord Burnham described as a great co-operative commonwealth and the great duties and obligations of newspapers as the fashioners of public opinion. Mr. Meighen, the Premier, proposed the toast of "Our Guests", and amid many compliments indulged in some shrewd and timely criticisms of the newspapers and their performances.

Other speakers of the evening were the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Burnham, Mr. G. E. Fairfax, (Chairman of the Australian delegations), Sir George Foster, the Minister of Trade and Commerce and Sir P. T. McGrath, a Newfoundland journalist.

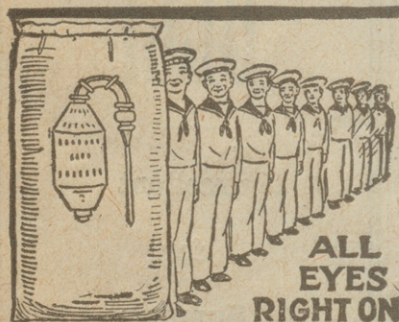
It is to be hoped few of the delegates knew of Mr. P. E. Blondin's National past as they listened to his speech on Friday inaugurating a discussion upon Empire partnership which evoked an expression of view from various delegates. Many of the British delegates threw out suggestions for the creation of some centralized organic union, but almost without exception the Dominion representatives rejected any scheme of centralization and preferred to trust to the ties of blood a common spirit, language and traditions. The viewpoint of the Canadian Nationalist was very ably put by Mr. J. W. Dafoe, the editor of the Manitoba Free Press. The af-

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ternoon was devoted to the thorny question of the newsprint supply in which all the delegates were vitally interested. Mr. Imrie and Mr. A. L. Dawes, experts representing respectively the Canadian Newspaper Association and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association addressed the Conference. Mr. Imrie stated that during the twelve months ending March 31, 1920, Canada has consumed at home 90,000 tons and exported 713,625 tons, of which 629,000 went to the United States. The Australian delegates all complained of the shortage of newsprint in their country, and stated that as much as \$50 per ton had to be paid for it. Some of them bluntly said that they would like to see the talk of Empire bonds translated into practice by the Canadian papermakers offering supplies at cheaper rates. Lord

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Burnham asked Mr. Dawes to suggest to his Association that a definite supply be allocated from Canada to the Australian papers.

A motion was proposed and carried that there should be uniform postal rates throughout the Empire and another to the effect that there should be a better interchange of news between the different parts of the Empire. On Saturday morning, Sir G. Foster, in an eloquent address introduced a discussion upon Empire Commerce, which elicited a number of interesting speeches.

The delegates throughout their visit were hospitably entertained by various clubs and private individuals in Ottawa and their stay in the capital was marked by glorious weather. They left for Toronto on Saturday evening, and Sir George Foster wittily warned them of the tales and stories which the boosters of the West would pour into their ears.

On Monday, August 2nd, the Prime Minister and his wife attended a pleasant gathering at Portage La Prairie where his constituents laid aside all party feelings and united to do him honor. A large crowd of people and numerous illustrious citizens of the province of Manitoba attended, and addresses befitting the occasion were delivered. Mr. Meighen replied with grace and dig-

nity, and of course banished everything of a party nature from his speeches. He surveyed the general situation in the country and found grounds for optimism.

There were, he admitted, grave problems, but they were not insoluble. He made a special plea for mutual toleration between the two great races of the Dominion, and is evidently following the course set by the Montreal Gazette to try to win the support of Quebec protectionists. But his eulogies of the French-Canadian race clearly aroused the ire of the representative of the Toronto Telegram who commented unfavorably upon this part of his speech. Mr. Meighen's sentiments were admirable, and it was pleasant to learn that his personal ideas were so national and tolerant. The Ottawa Citizen finds them so "all embracing that they merely lack opportunity to reconcile the various sections of the country and blend us all into one harmonious whole."

In one passage he said "The imperative duty of the hour is to vigilantly seek out and redress all just causes of complaint and whenever in the framing and enforcing of laws there is doubt as to where the line of justice lies, give the benefit to the man behind."

The phrase, the "imperative duty of the hour", is redolent of progressive leadership and thoroughly representative government. But the people who are most affected ought to be permitted to select the instruments of their government for no just causes of complaint can be redressed if fundamental popular rights are treated with contempt. Canada to-day enjoys a government which admittedly has lost the confidence of the electorate. We would have more faith in Mr. Meighen's eloquent professions of high ideals if he showed some willingness to allow the country to express its sentiments for the first time since 1911 on domestic issues.

Titles have been banished from our midst but some form of decoration is needed for Mr. J. A. Calder. He, along with Sir H. Drayton and Mr. Gideon Robertson, will constitute a tariff committee of the Cabinet and begin sessions of inquiry in the West in September. For Mr. Calder to go as a member of the Meighen government and sit on a tariff committee in Regina is truly a piece of heroism.

J. A. Stevenson.

—o:—

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## A Cable Matter

THE bulk of the genuine cable news (it is necessary to say genuine, because a lot declared to be cabled news was never cabled at all) from Great Britain and other parts of the world, reaches our newspapers via New York, as part of American services prepared in the first instance by Americans for American digestion, and sold to Canadian papers as a side-line, being transmitted here by telegraph or mail. The excessive cost of direct cable news service to Canadian newspapers alone is generally given as the reason for taking British news through the back door of the United States.

A meagre service of cable news direct from Britain to Canada, by Canadians for Canadians, is furnished by the Canadian Associated Press, subsidized by the Canadian Government. To my own mind (I have dealt with probably every news service that was in the last twenty-two years), the C. A. P. is, within its limitations, nearly always fair, reliable and reasonably balanced to suit the needs of Canadian readers; but it has been much criticized as a carrier of Government propaganda and other dreadful things, with what truth I am not sure, and with what underlying motives, if any, I can only guess at. Certainly it has always been far from adequate as a complete reflection of current British news, though the question of cost and editorial wishes can be understood to have a good deal to do with that.

What remains of our cable news is a scanty supply from special correspondents in London of a few Canadian newspapers. Some of this is not above the suspicion of being deliberate propaganda, and practically all the rest of it naturally caters to the special policies and programmes of the particular papers using it.

At the present time the cables are much congested with Government and commercial messages, and delay in press messages is frequent, adding still another difficulty to direct news service.

These being, in brief, the circumstances of our cabled news, it is interesting to find the Montreal Herald, cent-wise in the matter

of paying the members of its own staff, apparently being dollar-foolish in the matter of cabled news.

In the issue of August 9, there is a story over half a column in length, bearing the date line, "London, August 9", with a top-line shout that it is "The Herald's Exclusive Cable". Its introduction says that it is "Special to the Herald by Lydia K. Commander. Copyright, 1920, by Cross-Atlantic Newspaper Service."

In view of the congestion of the cables, of the high cost of exclusive cabling of a long story, of the special work of the great Lydia, of the copyrighting of the subject-matter, of the need for more direct cabling of important facts, one might have reasonably expected the story to be of great value, worth all the trouble, hurry and expense. The heading says, however, that the story is "Golden Age For Women Not Youth; After Thirty-five Years Declares Famous English Physician". If Lydia cabled that, someone should put the lid on Lydia. It is something like chartering the International Limited to rush a tin of sardines across the Dominion.

However, if the Herald is apparently dollar-foolish in the matter of this cable, perhaps it is more apparent than real. I would be surprised to learn that the Herald paid cable tolls on this exclusive message of August 9. If I particularly wanted such a story, I might in a flush of extravagance have paid telegraph tolls on it from some point in the United States, though probably I should have waited till the mail came in. I would not have bothered copyrighting it.

The cable news situation being what it is, will the Herald be good enough to explain its apparent wild squandering of money on exclusive cables of the sort, or is that too much to expect?

K. C.

## Railroad Aristocrats

THE new wages award of the U. S. Railway Labor Board, involving an additional payment of six hundred million dollars a year to railroaders across the border, and a corresponding increase in Canada, where the terms of the award will be made applicable, has led to a speeding-up in circulation of the popular term, "The Aristocracy of Labor", as applied to those who work on railroads. The aristocrats themselves would infinitely prefer doing without the title and getting some of what is popularly supposed to justify the conferring of the title. Fairly general impressions concerning the high wages of railroaders go to show, to those more correctly informed, to what an extent public opinion is manipulated through the press and other agencies, notably in the United States, by those whose special interest it is to create the idea that railroaders are affluent and selfish persons. Even in Canada there have been wonderful newspaper stories of railway brakemen riding around in limousines and buying stocks of silk shirts at \$15 a shirt.

Truth is that the average railroader is not in as good a state regarding wages as the butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker. Truth is that the statements that railroaders have always been a highly-paid part of labor, and that they have used their favored position to obtain still more favored terms, is a mere lie.

A fact that has been nicely shunted off the main track into some remote siding is that the United States Government itself has shown that at the close of 1916 over half the railroaders in the country were getting less than \$75 a month. Four-fifths of the total were receiving under \$100 a month, and of the locomotive engineers, the highest-paid class in the running trades, more than half were receiving less than \$175 a month. Some poverty-stricken classes of American railroaders received no increase since May of 1918; trackmen, for instance, have been getting twenty-eight cents an hour, and other classes very little more. In the new award the grading has been made to give the biggest increases to the most poorly-paid employees, but even yet many workers, including switch tenders, for example, get a total wage of only \$5.04 per day. The award sounds tremendous in the aggregate, but it does not mean much to the individual railroader.

A lot of stories are told of the wealth of railroad conductors, and doubtless many persons would be surprised to know that the minimum wage of passenger train conductors in Canada at the present time is fixed at \$6 per ten-hour day, or only 60c an hour.



The baggageman's rate is \$4.16 a day, and the brakeman's rate is \$4 a day. All three classes have expenses of meals, and often of bed, away from home. Many make more money than the minima, of course, by working overtime or on a mileage basis.

The aristocratic brakeman who could buy a limousine and silk shirts on four dollars a day or thereabouts would be a marvel.

K. C.

## Democracy In Industrial Movement

(Colin McKay)

THE interpretation of the methods and forms of political democracy into shop management has been tried in a score or more of industrial establishments in the United States for some years, and has given surprising results in some cases and general satisfaction in all. In a few instances this rather extreme form of industrial democracy was adopted as a heroic remedy for an apparently desperate condition arising from sharp antagonism between employers and workers, and the success of the experiment in such circumstances is good evidence of the value of the principle involved, and of the reasonableness of the workers. In other instances it represented the culmination of series of experiments or half way measures on the general plan of the Whitley counsils.

What may be regarded as the advanced system of industrial democracy involves the organization of a House of Representatives, a Senate, and a Cabinet. The house of Representatives is composed entirely of workmen, elected by their fellow workers, its size depending on the number of departments and employees in the establishment. The Senate is composed of the foremen, heads of departments, and sub-managers. The Cabinet consists of the general executive officers of the company.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate hold sessions in the company's time. Either House may initiate measures, but any proposition must pass both houses. The cabinet is the final authority, and

when it sanctions measures sent up from the lower houses, they become the working condition or law of the establishment. Of some twenty establishments which have been working on this plan it is said that not in a single instance has the Cabinet felt called upon to exercise its power of veto, a fact which speaks volumes for the ability of foremen and workers as legislators on matters of shop practice and policy. As in political legislatures small committees are appointed to whip measures into shape and facilitate the deliberations of the larger bodies.

Of course an essential condition of the success of this plan is that the company shall lay all its cards on the table, reveal its general business policies and open its books to the inspection of the committee of the workers. The executive officers attend the sessions of the House of Representatives ready to give any information wanted, but they have no vote in that body. Their suggestions, of course, carry weight.

Generally the company makes monthly statements of its affairs, costs of production, value of output, etc. If improvements or economies are effected as a result of proposals made or carried out by the industrial parliament, the money saved is divided between the company and the employees, usually on a fifty-fifty basis. Mutual frankness and confidence is made the condition of co-operation for the common benefit;

the worker's representatives have a say in the determination of wage rates and wage dividends. The system thus avoids the objection to profit-sharing schemes, where the company alone determines the distribution of profits, and the workers usually have a suspicion that the company pays unduly big salaries or dividends on watered stock before setting aside a percentage of the profits for distribution among the wage-workers.

It is usually asserted that our political system is fatal to efficiency in any kind of business, and that a public enterprise managed by the political powers seldom compares with enterprises managed by private companies. But be that as it may, the direct application of the system of politics to industrial establishments, giving the workers concerned a considerable measure of self government in their daily occupations, has in practically every case resulted in a notable increase in the efficiency of the establishment. The Packard Piano Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, adopted this system seven years ago. In 1914 business was dull, and the factory being on part time the men themselves decided to reduce the working force from 268 to 168. Since then the company's business has greatly expanded, and its production has been increased three times, but owing to improved methods and machinery invented almost entirely by the workers, no additions were made to the working force.

Of course the average worker will not be enthusiastic about a system of industrial democracy which increases production while reducing

the opportunities of employment, as he might be among the men whose services are not needed. That is not a solution of the labor problem — the problem of so organizing and co-ordinating the wonderful forms and forces of modern production as to assure everybody willing to work a proper livelihood. But these experiments are none the less interesting and valuable. They show the great importance of mutual confidence and good will; they prove that our captains of industry are not supermen, having a monopoly of managing ability and organizing genius; they demonstrate that when the workers are given responsibility and opportunity they develop an unsuspected capacity for promoting efficiency, eliminating difficulties, and organizing improvements and economies, whose possibilities the managers themselves never conceived. They point the way, too, to a new method of approach to the various problems of industrial relations which are vexing the world, and upon which Government commissions and investigations throw little light. They show that autocracy in industry which appears to be impotent before the growing anarchy of the relations between capital and labor is not justified in the pretence that it is necessary because it is more efficient; they show that autocracy in industry with its impersonal, cold-blooded attitude to labor cannot survive in the face of the new conception of the worker of his personal rights and importance. They prove that industrial democracy is not only possible, but desirable in the interest of business efficiency, as well as of industrial harmony.

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## A Permanent Tariff Board

(Grain Growers' Guide).

The editor of the Canadian Railroader, a weekly which is described as the official organ of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada, and which is issued in the interest of all employees in railroad service, is greatly perturbed over the apparent apathy of the farmers with respect to the appointment of a permanent tariff board, and he pathetically exclaims that "honestly" he does not know "how to account for the farmer attitude." The mere fact, he says, that he has been writing articles in favor of a permanent Tariff Board, "is no reason why The Grain Growers' Guide should reply to them," but "when 1,600 organizations and hundreds of thousands of trades unionists sign resolutions advocating a permanent Tariff Board against the expressed opposition of the farmer movement, then it becomes highly advisable for The Grain Growers' Guide to discuss such a unique and important development. It was the silence of the farmer press with relation to this extraordinary movement of the trades unionists which provoked wonderment and speculation."

"The silence of the farmer press" in connection with the question of a permanent Tariff Board is a figment of Mr. Pierce's imagination. The editorial in The Guide, which drew from Mr. Pierce the above

comments, is but one out of a number which have appeared during the last seven or eight years. Mr. Pierce appears to be a new convert to the doctrines of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Canadian Reconstruction Association, and like all new converts he imagines he has got something of such overwhelming importance to impart that he must need preach it in season and out of season. Frankly, we are suspicious of the assertion that "1,600 organizations and hundreds of thousands of trades unionists" have put themselves behind spontaneous resolutions demanding a permanent Tariff Board. Resolutions may have been passed, but it would be interesting to know the source of the resolutions, and in what circumstances they came before the several organizations. Did they all pass the same resolution, and if so, what propagandist organization fathered it, and what influences guided it to the stage of acceptance?

What is it that Mr. Pierce and the entire protectionist forces of the country now so ardently desire? They want a permanent Tariff Board composed of "scientific, trained economists" who will "view the tariff... from a central viewpoint, so as to determine its relation to the welfare of all the people." Now if Mr. Pierce understands the mean-

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ing of the words he uses, he will realize that this means a board which will lay down for the government in power the details of tariff policy. The cabinet will not "determine" tariff policy, the board will; otherwise it would have to be admitted that the government was better able than the body of "scientific, trained economists" to determine the relation of the tariff to "the welfare of all the people." If the board has not to make recommendations as to tariff policy, of what more value would it be than a simple commission authorized to collect data for the information of the government? Against the latter The Guide has raised no objection; but no democratic country will tolerate the delegation of authority to an unrepresentative board for the formulation of fiscal policy.

Outside of that we have to say to Mr. Pierce that no "scientific, trained economist" believes in the framing of a scientific tariff. A scientific tariff is an absurdity, a protectionist hallucination. The per-

son who believes in a scientific tariff is one who is convinced not only of the desirability of protection but of its economic soundness. The Guide is convinced of neither the one nor the other. In the last analysis a tariff is a matter of policy not of science; it is a political and economic weapon and a two-edged one at that, injuring the wielder as much as the one against whom it is wielded. All that the so-called scientific tariffs have accomplished is to make keener the edge of the weapon and to make more terrible the commercial rivalries of the nations. The very reasons given by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and by Mr. Pierce, for the appointment of a permanent Tariff Board are based upon the assumption that protection can be "scientifically" justified. That assumption finds no basis in economic science, hence there is no reason whatever for tariff reformers to attach any value to such a board or to support proposals for its appointment.

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## Protect The Children

(Samuel Gompers)

Inevitably in a system where the struggle for existence is a warfare without quarter, the trophies are in direct proportion to strength; the sufferings in direct proportion to weakness. This is the logical development of the orthodox political economy. When the Congress and the President of the United States tried to prevent the slow killing of children by the enactment of the Federal Child Labor Law in 1916, their work was completely undone by a majority of the members of the United States Supreme Court, Chief Justices Day, White, Van Devanter, Pitney and McReynolds. The unfortunate attitude taken by these good men is the logical outcome of their accepted legal-economic principles of state rights. This pseudo-legal-economic science, with all its fictions and gospel of unrestrained competition, teaches the extermination of the weak by the strong. As a direct consequence, the children being the weakest workers are necessarily the worst treated, and the women being a little better able to take care of themselves are treated a little better. Facts fully bear out on this painful conclusion.

It is by the treatment accorded the helpless that we can inevitably tell the good or bad there is in man. The virtue of a community, state or nation can be measured by the same test. Measured by this rule as a nation we have little virtue to boast of, and having lived so long under the inspiration of that saying, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven," we have progressed so far that we can consent that children shall be dwarfed, tortured and killed only in the factory, mill and workshop but not in the family. Civilization in the home is that much ahead of the civilization in business.

There was a time in the history

of our country when every child was a child. That was in the early days before our system of production became so involved and profitable. It was then the birthright of every child to have ample time to grow to manhood and womanhood and to be required to work only by the exigencies of family life.

Today, too often the workingman's child is a drudge from its babyhood. Child labor leads to the unemployment of the father and an increasing poverty later on in life, with discontent and revolution as a natural consequence. The dangers to the health and morals constantly besetting the working child, though less sensationally conspicuous than the dangers of death by fire and explosion and industrial accidents, are neither less deadly nor less widespread. Working children know practically nothing of the education of a home life.

We have arrived at a time when civilization must enforce the same standards of protection for child life in business as it enforces in the home. The business men of our country and of our time must no longer be permitted to imagine the vain thing that they can put on society or business the responsibility of their maltreatment of children. The employer who engages child labor is as guilty of every wrong done to his neighbor's child as if done to his own, society can not escape the responsibility to the same extent of individual guilt.

We want emancipation of our toiling children. The promise of the future lies in the fact that the day is near at hand when infanticide will be prohibited to the employer as it now is to the father.

While a majority of the members of the United States Supreme Court have declared the Anti-Child Labor Law of 1916 unconstitutional, Chief Justice Marshall, who in his time

honored this great court, may have unconsciously pointed out the way for protecting the children of our nation when he said: "The power to tax is the power to destroy." We should, therefore, welcome, encourage and support the bill which at the request of the American Federation of Labor and other associations was proposed by Senators Lenroot, Kenyon and Pomerene and approved by the Senate which proposes to raise more revenue, but which will actually put a stop to this great evil by so taking the products of

child labor as to make it unprofitable longer to employ the children of our nation.

Labor men and all lovers of children should immediately join hands with all who have come to understand the profound truth that after all the one thing in common in America is to afford every boy and girl of today — the father and mother of tomorrow—a full opportunity to embrace the true principles of that character essential to the future welfare of the individual and of our nation.



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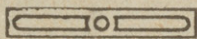
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## Industrial Arbitration in Australia

(By George S. Beeby)

Minister for Labor and Industry and Associate Commissioner of the Board of Trades, New South Wales.

MORE than twenty years ago, with the concurrence of both employers and workmen, Australian Parliaments passed laws providing for the settlement of all industrial disputes either by courts of arbitration, or by wage boards. These laws have been altered from time to time, but are still generally in force throughout the commonwealth. Many different systems have been tried, and compulsory arbitration has had a fair trial over a period of nearly a quarter of a century. The arguments in favor of the system were that it saved the community from the waste arising from strikes; that it offered the wage-earner a surer, quicker and less expensive method of getting improved industrial standards; and that by open investigation before public tribunals, the needs and aspirations of workers became better understood by the whole community.

Today the whole question of indus-

trial regulation is being reconsidered. After close association with the whole of these experiments, I venture to submit the following summary of my conclusions as to their effect on the State:

Arbitration has failed as a means of preventing strikes. Organized labor has refused over and over again to accept the decisions of the tribunals, and has called innumerable strikes, although their duration and intensity may have been lessened. Little regard has been paid to the law which makes strikes illegal. No government has ever yet attempted to rigidly enforce the anti-strike law, and the public generally regard strike penalties with good natured contempt. It is recognized that no law can make men work, once they become involved in a definite dispute, and that the only effective line of action which a government can take, is to provide machinery for conciliation. Today there is a definite movement by all the strongly organized unions against the whole system. They contend that their most effective weapon is the right to call a strike at any time, and under any circumstances, and many of them now refuse to submit their cases to the arbitration courts. On the other hand weaker unions such as shop assistants, laundry employees, women workers in factories, and restaurant employees, still rely on arbitration, as it gives them better results than they can achieve by striking. But even these workers resent the restrictions which the law places on their rights particularly when they want to take part in a sympathetic strike. Putting the two cases side by side, I think that the advantages derived from our system, can thus be stated.

The reproach of sweated industries has been removed from Australasia. With slight exception, women and children who work in occupations which lend themselves to oppression and misery are, compared with those in "free" countries, guaranteed decent factory conditions, reasonable hours of labor, and minimum wages. Child labor is strictly controlled and supervised, and in factories particularly, the tendency is to reduce still further the working hours of women and juveniles.

The unskilled worker, the product of modern industrial methods, is protected from over-competition for employment. Much of his improved condition is attributable to scarcity of labor, but the incentive to organization, the power to drive a collective bargain, originated with the earlier arbitration awards, which gave him a status previously unknown.

The constant open inquiry into wages and working conditions of employees has been of great educational value, and has led to more sympathetic consideration by the public of the workers' agitation for a higher standard of comfort and to a wider public interest in economic problems. No political party, for

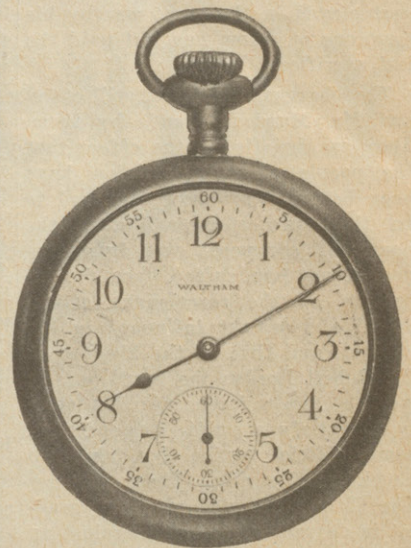
instance, now ever disputes that industrial regulation of some kind, including the fixing of a standard minimum wage, is necessary and advisable. Parties may differ as to the extent of such regulation and the nature of the machinery for effecting it, but no serious voice is ever heard against the wisdom of interfering with freedom of contract in maintaining a reasonable standard of comfort for wage-earners by law.

On the other hand the wages fixed by the court have generally become standards. A very small proportion of workmen can command rates above the different minima prescribed. The result has been the leveling down of labor to a common plane. The incentive to get on has been taken away. The best man and the worst man get the same rate of pay, and the result has been reduced efficiency, and perpetual discontent, amongst skilled workmen, particularly those who want to get on in the world.

Compulsory arbitration has also prevented employers and workmen from coming together, and trying to arrange their own conditions of employment. It has driven the parties into two hostile camps. They are engaged in constant litigation instead of friendly conferences.

Today the whole system is in the melting pot. The idea of a minimum wage and the standard eight-hour day will never be repealed. All classes and all political parties in Australia have finally accepted the principle that it is the duty of the state to prescribe a national minimum wage for an eight-hour day, and to allow no competition in the labor market below that living margin. But all the elaborate machinery for the general control of industrial regulation by laws falling into disrepute and complete revision of the whole system, is inevitable. The right to strike, the full and free exercise of the power of combination by both employers and workmen will be restored, and above a living standard fixed by the Board of Trade, the old economic forces will again come into play; with this added advantage, that arbitration has by constant public investigation, educated all sections of the community and led to better understanding by each section of the difficulties and needs of others.

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## Mr. MURDOCK READY

(The Citizen, Ottawa).

In a letter to The Citizen, published yesterday, Ex-Commissioner Murdock virtually repeats his charges of some time ago when he asserts that he will be ready within twenty-four hours to place himself at the disposal of any authority entrusted with the duty of investigating his accusations that members of the cabinet protected profiteers by impeding the work of the board of commerce. Mr. Murdock likewise disposes of the non-relative insinuation that he is an American official by proving his claim to Canadian citizenship, and by reference to the part played in the great war by his sons, one of whom has just paid the last sacrifice.

The charges, therefore, still stand and Mr. Murdock stands by them. They are, briefly, to the effect that the people of the Dominion have been betrayed by those supposed to be their protectors and that the board of commerce was handicapped, if not handcuffed, from its inception by the reactionary attitude of a dominant influence in the cabinet, and that in the absence of Sir Robert Borden the board and its work became a farce, intended merely to satisfy a public demand that some official action be taken to check profiteering. These charges The Citizen asserted were the gravest in character preferred against an administration as a whole since Confederation. No amount of violent language in denial of the character of the charges will affect their gravity in the eyes of the public, who are directly concerned in the matter; no attempts to drag inside issues such as the supposed nationality of Mr. Murdock will offset the impression created in the public mind and strengthened by the reluctance of the government to have the facts brought to light. For brought to light they will be, if not in an official enquiry then on the election platforms of the country. By refusing to face the Murdock charges the administration has furnished its political opponents with a weapon of the most effective kind and one of which they may be

trusted to make the most. The issue which most concerns the people of Canada and has so concerned them for months is the abnormal increase in living costs; it has touched every householder and every consumer in the country. What the public demanded to know and what it had a right to know was whether such increases were justified by production or other costs. The board of commerce was instituted ostensibly to supply that information. Mr. Murdock, one of the commissioners, resigned and publicly charged that the board was influenced by certain cabinet ministers and others so that its usefulness was destroyed and that for him longer to continue to be a party to such deception of the public was repugnant to his sense of honor and duty. Surely here was a situation unparalleled in our political history. The administration of the day was publicly accused of being in collusion with the profiteering interests responsible in large degree for the abnormal increases in the cost of living — a matter which concerned every citizen of Canada, regardless of political affiliations.

The government met the situation by affecting to regard the charges as mere generalizations and sought safety in technicalities. The party press, or some of its members, indulged in abusive language and sought to impute a personal motive to Mr. Murdock, and to sidetrack public feeling by declaring that the ex-commissioner was a foreign labor official with no interest in Canadian affairs.

Either the Murdock charges are true or they are not. The public, we venture to say, are intensely interested in finding out the facts. The government refuses to move in the matter, although Mr. Murdock stands prepared to come forward at any time and do his share towards "letting in the light." Is the administration afraid of the light?



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## A KINDLY VIEW

WRITING on board the Empress of France in mid-ocean on July 18, on his way to England after a three-months tour of Canada, Sir Richard Winfrey, M.P., tells a friend, a leading citizen of Montreal, some nice things about the Canadian Railroader and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association. Sir Richard controls seventeen English weekly papers and one evening paper. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Imperial Department of Agriculture during several of the war years. The Railroader had no communication with him whatever, so that his views are perhaps the more interesting.

In the course of more than three hundred words about the Railroader and the Association which modestly forbids reprinting in full, he says that he is specially interested in the Railroader and that the objects of the Association are admirable; "more speed to those who control such an Association!" He is struck by certain editorials and articles, likes the whole tone of the paper, and is glad to note the obvious progress made. Incidentally, he confuses K. C. with a learned King's Counsel, who appreciates the joke just as much as I do.

K. C.

## Mr. Murdock's Citizenship and Work

(Ottawa Citizen, August 9th, 1920.)

49 Melbourne Avenue,  
Toronto, Ont., August 7, 1920.

Mr. Norman E. Smith,  
Managing Editor, The Ottawa  
Daily Journal,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Smith:—On many occasions recently I have had sent to me clippings from the Ottawa papers when, editorially or otherwise, reference has been made to the condensed synopsis of facts relative to Board of

Commerce matters and the attitude of the Cabinet in connection therewith which I sent to the then Prime Minister under date of June 24.

My judgment from some experience is that it would be wasting time to take exception to much of the misrepresentation and partizan or political statements found in many of the articles in question, as much camouflage is no doubt necessary in an effort to demonstrate the truth of the Barnum theory that "the people like to be fooled."

I now, however, appeal to you, as one who I think knows better, to dis-

continue the attempt by newspaper reference to exile me or to fool the people, readers of your paper and others, into the belief that the undersigned, "with an office and headquarters in Cleveland, has no public or private interest in Canada."

The impression conveyed by that sentence is the reverse of what is the fact. I am a Canadian citizen working in Canada and the United States for Canada and Canadians.

I was born under the British flag, and when a child, lost a father defending that flag. I was brought up in the County of Kent, Ontario, lived in London, Ontario, and was employed by the C. P. R. from 1890 to 1903, and my family has been living at the address shown in the heading of this letter since that time, where mail still reaches me.

I was blessed with only two sons, one of whom left the Parkdale Collegiate Institute in Toronto in 1916 to enlist in the world war, and the other left in 1917 for the same purpose. The elder we buried the other day as a result.

It is true, of course, that the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has its headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, and that I happen to be the Canadian vice-president of this organization since 1905.

The Brotherhood declined to accept my resignation last September when I accepted an appointment on the Board of Commerce, which appointment, by the way, was not proposed, indorsed or suggested by any representative of labor or any organization representing labor, repeated statements to the contrary notwithstanding.

You will, I am sure, admit that it was reasonably proper for me to report to headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, when I left the Board of Commerce on June 24th last, if merely for the purpose of receiving instructions and taking up my former duties as Canadian vice-president of the organization, but please don't persist in trying to keep me in Cleveland, because my "public and private interests" are all in Canada, and, whether your paper and others like it or not, I shall still be found, for some time to come, much of my time between Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Victoria, B. C., attempting to conserve the interests of members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and to maintain proper mutual respectful understandings between members of that organization and their employers, the railroads.

Please don't try further to exile me. I decline to go from your midst.

You are at liberty to assure all who are interested in this matter that I will (even though temporarily in the United States from time to time) undertake to deliver myself in Canada within 24 hours whenever anyone in reasonable authority shows sufficient nerve in the interests of the consuming public to "let in the light," and I will give of my time and effort to assist in every way possible.

There are other matters on which your paper appears not to be as well informed as it might be. If these mistakes, which are no doubt due to mere oversight, can be avoided, it will save me the trouble of writing again to correct them, a courtesy which I shall appreciate. Very truly yours, JAMES MURDOCK, Vice-President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Copy to The Ottawa Citizen.



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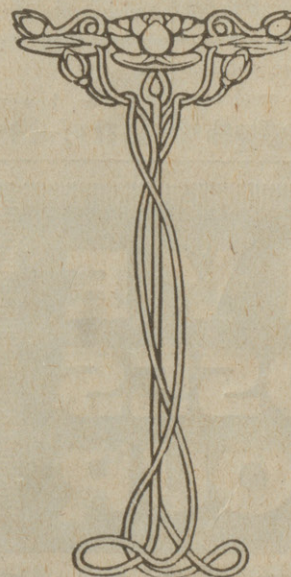
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